

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants submit this amendment in order to overcome the rejection of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §112.

In the latest Office Action, the Examiner rejected the independent claims 1, 15, 27 and 31 (as well as all claims depending therefrom) because of the use of the term "may". Applicants have changed the term "may" to "is".

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 18 and 19, since they depend from cancelled claim 17. The subject matter of claim 17 was incorporated by way of amendment into claim 15 (in Applicants' response filed May 22, 2003), and by the present amendment, claims 18 and 19 now properly depend from claim 15.

Since the foregoing changes are believed to fully overcome the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §1.112, and thus remove issues from appeal, entry of this amendment is believed proper and is respectfully requested.

Applicants are concurrently filing a Request for Reinstatement, requesting that the appeal of the present application be reinstated (as to the continuing rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, and the arguments contained in the earlier Appeal Brief of January 12, 2004, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/028,888
Amdt. dated June 30, 2004]
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2004

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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